



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

DATE: September 27, 2006

CHDP Provider Information Notice No.: 06-12

TO: ALL CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)  
PROGRAM PROVIDERS AND MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE PLANS

SUBJECT: THREE INFLUENZA VACCINE CHANGES FOR 2006-07

There are three changes for influenza vaccine for 2006-07:

1. The first change is that for 2006-07, all infants and children 6 months through 59 months are considered at increased risk of influenza infection or its complications, making them eligible for influenza vaccine as a CHDP program benefit because their age is a high risk factor. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is extending their recommendation of 2003-04, that included healthy infants six to 24 months of age as at increased risk of influenza infection or its complications, to now include infants through 59 months.

The committee based the new recommendation on recent research that indicates flu causes much of the use of health care and lost work time by the parents of children ages two to five years, despite the small number of serious illnesses and deaths caused by the disease among those children. According to the committee, about 85 of every 1,000 four-year-old children receive physician care for flu annually. In addition, recent research indicates that flu vaccinations among children could help protect individuals at the highest risk for complications from the disease.

In addition to infants and children 6 months through 59 months, other high risk groups include:

- Children and adolescents aged 5 through 18 years with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma.
- Children and adolescents aged 5 through 18 years who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]).

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- Children and adolescents aged 5 through 18 years who have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration.
  - Children and adolescents aged 5 through 18 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and may therefore be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza.
  - Children and adolescents aged 5 through 18 years who are residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house persons at any age who have chronic medical conditions.
  - Adolescent females aged <19 years who will be pregnant during influenza season.
  - Children and adolescents aged 5 through 18 years who are household contacts of persons in the following high-risk groups:
    - a. any children less than five years old;
    - b. children or adolescents in any of the other groups listed above;
    - c. any person 50 years or older;
    - d. adults with chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems;
    - e. adults who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year for chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by HIV).
2. The second change is that effective July 1, 2006, it is against California law Code Section 124172) to administer doses of inactivated influenza vaccine from a multi-dose vial to pregnant women or children younger than three years old because of the level of the mercury-containing preservative, thimerosal, contained in multi-dose vials. Effective July 1, 2006, only doses of influenza vaccine from single-dose syringes or vials with trace levels or no mercury may be given to these groups. This law does not apply to persons who are three years of age and older and who are not pregnant. Fluzone<sup>®</sup> influenza virus vaccine (Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.) in pre-filled 0.25

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mL unit dose syringes is currently the only influenza virus vaccine approved for use in children aged six months to three years.

3. The third change is that an ACIP/VFC Resolution has identified all healthy children and adolescents, aged five years thru 18 years 11 months, as eligible for FluMist (Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine). Therefore, the comment "Presence of household member(s) with high risk factor" has been removed as a requirement for FluMist, effective September 1, 2006.

Your continuing participation in the CHDP Program is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about this Provider Information Notice or other CHDP issues, please contact your local CHDP Program office.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by Marian Dalsey**

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch  
Enclosure